

**Andrew Jackson to Francis Preston Blair, September 26, 1840, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson.
Edited by John Spencer Bassett.**

class=MsoNormal>TO FRANCIS P. BLAIR.

Hermitage, September 26, 1840.

My dear sir, Your letter of the 10th instant has been received, and I am much gratified to hear that my notice of that Demagogue Clay's speech at Nashville has met with the approbation of my friends. The object of the opposition is to prostrate my character and administration, and thereby weaken the popularity of Mr. Van Buren. Clay expecting that I would not notice his remarks, made the attack upon me, to be left as so much political capital for the Federal scamps of Tennessee. But they have been silent on this subject here, except a few flourishes of the Banner, 0102 78 that has descended to such palpable falsehoods that no one of any standing believes a word of its vituperations. Clay's friends are very sore and cast down on this subject, and I can assure you that the great gathering on the 17th at Nashville to worship the coon and sour cider, and desecrate the sabbath in the manner it was, has injured the Federal cause here and added to the democracy hundreds. the attempt by their mummeries to degrade the people to a level with the brute creation has opened the people's eyes—it is saying to them in emphatic Language, that they are unfit for self government and can be led by hard cider, coons, Log cabins and big balls, by the demagogues, as can the lowing herd be, by his keeper and a basket of salt. That the freemen of America has not long since spurned with indignation this marked insult to their morals and understanding, is truly strange to me; and if any part of the people submit to it, such part, are fit for slaves, and must become hewers of wood and drawers of water to the combined money power of England and America. I have a higher opinion of the intelligence

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of the american people than this. Therefore it is that I have never for one moment doubted about Mr. V.B. reelection.

I think Tennessee will give Mr. VanBuren a good majority. Polk, Grundy, and all our good speakers are in the field, doing their duty well. The people are beginning to listen to our speakers with calmness. I have, by invitation, been at three ba[r]becues lately, and instead of riot and brawling I never saw more order and decorum in a church. These are the signs of reason reasuming its umpire, and when this is the case, democracy must and will triumph.

My friends have invited me to a free barbecue to be given on the 8th proximo at Jackson in the Western District—my friends say that it will insure them a majority. I am determined to make the attempt particularly when I see that Genl. Call and Major Eaton, have apostatised and taken the field with the piebald opposition of abolitionists, antimasons, and blue light Federalists. ?what apostacy! and how degraded a situation. I pity them sincerely, they can do us no harm, or at most but little. They will meet with the scowls of their old friends and their former enemies and defamers hereafter, will laugh them to scorn. What a degradation to those who have been so much cherished by the Government. I would infer that both these Gentlemen, from their apostacy, are broke or incumbered with debt, for we find all who are broke join the opposition and are in favour of Banks, wishing to pay their debts by a depreciated paper. some there are who are bought by British gold, and from the amount furnished to carry on the crusade against democracy and reelection of Van Buren, all these needy broken Gentlemen are fit subjects to be bought over from their former professed principles. “O tempo, O Mores.”